

TEMPE TODAY

a community newsletter



VOLUME 30 ~ ISSUE 11

WWW.TEMPE.GOV

NOVEMBER 2014



Light up the holidays

Know a neighbor who could use a little holiday cheer? By popular demand, Tempe Neighbors Helping Neighbors is hosting its second annual Holiday Lights campaign.

On Dec. 6, volunteers will visit selected homes to install holiday lights for residents who are unable to do it themselves. In January, volunteers will return to remove the displays.

Do you have a neighbor who is elderly or disabled and would enjoy this type of free holiday cheer? Are you are interested in volunteering or donating lights or lighted garlands? Contact the group at tnhninfo@gmail.com or 480-381-8336. Requests will be filled based on available volunteers and supplies.

Tempe begins dedicated Veterans Court

When Retired Brigadier General and Pro Tem Judge Gregg Maxon called the first session of Tempe Veterans Court to order in mid-September, 16 U.S. military veterans took part in a unique opportunity to resolve their criminal violations and get help for problems that may be holding them back in civilian life.

Tempe has started the eighth Veterans Court in Arizona, an effort designed to prevent recurring violations and improve quality of life for veterans and their families. It is the second such court in a city in Maricopa County.

The Veterans Court joins two other specialty efforts in Tempe, including a Mental Health Court and a regional consolidated Homeless Court. They are known as problem-solving courts. Tempe Municipal Court Presiding Judge MaryAnne Majestic said it's all part of Tempe's progressive nature.

"The City of Tempe has always been innovative in its approach to citywide issues and the Court system also embraces this philosophy," said Majestic. "The aim of the Court for establishing dockets that address these specific populations is to provide these offenders the support and structure they need to avoid further criminal behavior. These dockets involve collaboration among various members of the criminal justice groups, social service agencies, the Department of Veterans Affairs Justice Outreach program and Mercy Care Health Agencies."

Maxon said that most veterans the court will see successfully served their country but have encountered problems transitioning back after service. Violations may include trespassing, disorderly conduct, public urination, assault, domestic violence or DUI. Frequently, traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder are underlying issues behind self-medication and illegal behaviors.

"Military folks are not inclined to ask for help. They think it's a sign of weakness," he said. "For a lot of them, this is the first time they are confronting the reality that they need help."

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New Year's Eve Block Party on Mill Avenue

Dec. 31, 2014 – 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Tempe residents are eligible to purchase up to four tickets per household at \$10 each for the **Circle K Block Party**.

Please bring this voucher to the following locations to purchase your tickets starting Dec. 1, 2014.

Locations: Tempe Transportation Center; Escalante Community Center; Cahill Senior Center;

Kiwanis Recreation Center (Dec. 15-24 only); North Tempe Multi-Generational Center;

Pyle Adult Recreation Center; and Tempe Recreation Office, 2nd floor of Library

Offer expires Dec. 24, 2014 at 4 p.m. (Kids 12 & under free with adult.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEMPE, AZ ZIPCODE _____ Phone: _____

of Tickets (limit 4) _____ x \$10 = TOTAL _____

PAYMENT: ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card



www.blockpartyonmill.com

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Getting back on track

Veterans who are willing and whose cases are appropriate will get referred to the Tempe Veterans Court upon their initial arraignment. They will come to the court regularly and be expected to fulfill obligations assigned by Maxon, including things like mandatory counseling or treatment programs. If they comply and make progress throughout the process, their offenses may be resolved with decreased or waived jail time or fines. Program “graduates” will rotate out as new offenders will be given opportunities to take part.

Before each monthly court session, confidential pre-meetings will take place with Maxon, the court’s public defender, the court’s prosecutor, a Department of Veterans Affairs representative and social services representatives. They will discuss each veteran’s unique circumstances and progress. Each veteran defendant then has an appointed time to meet with Maxon in the open courtroom.

Maxon, a lawyer and veteran of the Army, Navy and Army National Guard, has assisted other Arizona jurisdictions in setting up veterans courts. He has observed that veterans tend to thrive in the structure of these dedicated programs, having served for years in regimented environments with tasks, deadlines and expectations.

“We’re talking about some very solid citizens and what they need is an opportunity to get on the right path,” he said. “The goal is to get them to be a law-abiding, sober, productive taxpaying citizen. Success is not seeing them again in the court system.”

The Mental Health Court and Veterans Court are housed within the Tempe Municipal Court building.

Support extends beyond court

Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage, a U.S. Army veteran, has been working on the city’s veterans initiatives as part of a working group with Councilmember Corey Woods and more than a dozen partners that include local veterans, Arizona State University, the Tempe Chamber of Commerce, Rio Salado Community College and the Arizona Department of Veterans Services. The group is committed to setting Tempe apart when it comes to supporting veterans, active military and their families.

The Veterans Court is just one way Tempe is working to meet veterans’ needs. At its Oct. 2 meeting, the City Council voted to establish the first Tempe Veterans Commission. In addition, the group of partners is working to drum up interest among developers in building affordable housing for veterans. And, in 2013, the city established a dedicated webpage (www.tempe.gov/military) and listserv to provide information and resources for veterans and their families.

City Council establishes first Tempe Veterans Commission

As part of a multifaceted effort to help improve quality of life for veterans and their families, the Tempe City Council on Oct. 2 voted unanimously to establish the Tempe Veterans Commission. The commission will strive to enhance and establish programs, policies and practices for Tempe veterans.

Last fall, in an effort led by Councilmembers Corey Woods and Robin Arredondo-Savage, Tempe joined forces with Tempe veterans and veteran service providers to create the Tempe Military and Veterans Working Group. Partners in the effort include the Arizona Department of Veterans Services, the Arizona Coalition for Military Families, the Pat Tillman Veterans Center at ASU and more.

The group collaborated to create a strategic plan with four initiatives: establish a Tempe Veteran Commission; earn the Veterans Supportive City designation from the Arizona Coalition of Military Families; create affordable housing projects for veterans and their families; and partner with the East Valley Veterans Education Center to establish a center that connects veterans and their families to resources, services and programs.

To apply for a volunteer appointment to the Tempe Veterans Commission, visit www.tempe.gov/clerk and click on “Boards and Commissions.” For more information on Tempe’s veterans efforts, visit www.tempe.gov/military.

Residents invited to sign up for free, new “Smart911” service



Smart911™

Tempe has launched a new system that allows community members to provide information

about themselves to assist first responders during emergencies. It’s called Smart911 and it is available for free self-subscription at www.smart911.com/.

Smart911 is available in 35 states and 500 municipalities across the country, and Tempe is the first city in Arizona to launch the service. Access to the information is limited to the subscriber and Smart911; first responders access it for a limited time only when triggered by calls to 9-1-1. Smart911 is not searchable by law enforcement.

Residents who subscribe can provide information that is helpful to responding personnel from Tempe Police and Tempe Fire Medical Rescue:

- Physical descriptions/photos, in case a child or ailing family member goes missing
- Medical information, such as a family member who suffers from a chronic illness or who requires medication or oxygen
- Disabilities, such as a family member who is hearing impaired or who has developmental disabilities that may pose communications challenges
- Premise information, such as hazardous materials or dogs/animals inside the home or yard

For more information, e-mail molly_enright@tempe.gov or call 480-858-6148.



Tempe glitters for the season

26th Annual Cactus Bowl

Kickoff is 8:15 p.m. on Jan. 2 at Sun Devil Stadium. Tickets start at \$20 plus fees. Visit www.fiestabowl.org/cactus-bowl.php for seats and game information. Get to downtown Tempe early for dinner, shopping and fun. Visit www.downtowntempe.com for information on transportation, parking, restaurants and shops.

Circle K New Year's Eve Block Party

It's Arizona's best party! The Circle K New Year's Eve Block Party on Mill Avenue will bring great bands, awesome DJs and all sorts of Tempe-style fun. More than 30,000 of your closest friends will ring in 2015 here, so make this your party. Tweet your playlist #NYEPLAYLIST and all of Mill Avenue will groove to your favorite songs. Take photos of you and your friends, Tweet them to #TEMPENYE and see them on the big screen. The Kids Zone stays open until 11 p.m. with carnival rides, games and music. Fireworks shows at 10 p.m. and midnight will ring in 2015. Visit www.blockpartyonmill.com.

Fantasy of Lights Parades

- The 20th Annual Fantasy of Lights Opening Night Parade ushers in the holiday season on Saturday, Nov. 29, at 6 p.m. Enjoy floats, balloons, clowns, marching bands and the arrival of Santa Claus. The parade proceeds down Mill Avenue from Third to Seventh streets, culminating at Centerpoint Plaza, where a festively decorated tree awaits ceremonial lighting at the conclusion of the parade. Visit www.millavenue.com and click on "Events and Entertainment."

- For the 15th year, families will line the south bank of Tempe Town Lake at Tempe Beach Park to watch about 50 decorated boats float by. Enjoy music, time with Santa and hundreds of luminarias lining the park sidewalks. The fun begins at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13. Santa arrives at 6 p.m. and the parade starts at 7 p.m. The evening ends with fireworks over Town Lake. Visit www.millavenue.com and click on "Events and Entertainment."

Danish Christmas

The Niels Petersen House Museum, 1414 W. Southern Ave., showcases Danish holiday traditions Dec. 6-21. Visit www.tempe.gov/museum or call 480-350-5100 for details.

Swimming with Santa

Santa will be exhausted from delivering toys, so he and Mrs. Claus have decided that the best place for a post-holiday vacation will be the Kiwanis Recreation Center. On Saturday, Dec. 27, and Sunday, Dec. 28, ride the waves with Santa or play games with Mrs. Claus on the pool deck. Swimming with Santa runs from 1-3 p.m. each day, and the waves continue until 5 p.m. For ticket prices and dates, visit www.tempe.gov/sws or call 480-350-5201.

Family Fun Factory

On Friday, Dec. 5, the Tempe Community Complex, 3340 S. Rural Road, will become a frozen winterland featuring free holiday activities for the whole family. Create art projects, participate in singalongs, decorate cookies, visit with Santa and grab a cup of hot cocoa. For more details, visit www.tempe.gov/familyactivities or call 480-350-5287.

Tempe Community Chorus

The 120-member Tempe Community Chorus performs at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19, at King of Glory Church, 2085 E. Southern Ave. Visit www.tempecommunitychorus.org.

Tempe Festival of the Arts

The 46th Annual Fall Festival of the Arts is Dec. 5-7, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., on and around Mill Avenue. Visit www.tempefestivalofthearts.com.

Put Tempe on your holiday list

This holiday season, consider shopping close to home. Visit www.tempe.gov/shoptempe for links to local businesses and a fun holiday song full of original gift ideas.

Larry Campbell Tree of Lights

Pay tribute to family and friends through the Tempe Historical Society's 13th annual Larry Campbell Tree of Lights fundraiser. Two trees will be displayed from Nov. 22 through Dec. 31 in the Tempe History Museum lobby, 809 E. Southern Ave. Make a small donation in someone's honor and get a nametag or ornament placed on the trees. Donors and those being remembered are invited to attend a reception on Dec. 7, from 3-5 p.m., in the museum lobby. For more details, call 480-350-5100.

Tempe Symphony Orchestra

The Tempe Symphony Orchestra will perform its annual Holiday Concert at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 1 at Boyle Auditorium/McClintock High School, 1830 E. Del Rio Drive. Visit www.tempe.gov/tempesymphony for more details.

Calendar

This is the tentative November/December schedule for Tempe City Council meetings.

November 13, 2014

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Regular Council Meeting

November 17, 2014

4:30 p.m., Committee of the Whole

December 4, 2014

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Regular Council Meeting

Agendas are posted 24 hours before each meeting outside the Council Chambers and on the second floor of City Hall. Meetings are subject to change. Confirm dates, times and locations with the City Clerk's Office, 480-350-8241 or at www.tempe.gov/clerk.

Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and www.tempe.gov/tempe11.

Tempe City Council

Mark W. Mitchell
Mayor

Onnie Shekerjian
Vice Mayor

Robin Arredondo-Savage
Councilmember

Shana Ellis
Councilmember

Kolby Granville
Councilmember

Joel Navarro
Councilmember

Corey Woods
Councilmember

Andrew Ching
City Manager

To contact the Mayor and Council, call 480-350-8110.

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News you can use

Winter class registration

The winter issue of the Tempe Opportunities brochure is full of new and continuing classes and programs for all ages and interests taking place January to March 2015. Class topics include exercise and fitness, educational programming, sports leagues, music, art, dance and more. All of these quality programs are offered at convenient times and locations, at affordable prices. The new brochure will be available in all City of Tempe facilities and can be viewed at www.tempe.gov/brochure the beginning of December. Registration begins in December and the first classes begin the first week of January. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/brochure or call 480-350-5200.

Coffee and conversation during "Java with Joel"

City of Tempe Councilmember Joel Navarro will connect with residents this month during "Java with Joel," the next in a series of Saturday morning get-togethers over coffee. Community members are invited to join Navarro on Saturday, Nov. 15, at 9 a.m., in the Tempe Public Library meeting room next to the library's Connections Café. The library is located at 3500 S. Rural Road. This month's topic is rental housing; residents are encouraged to bring ideas, feedback and concerns about rental housing in Tempe.

Get into character at the Character Area Celebration

Residents of Character Areas 7 and 8 are invited to a celebration of everything that makes their neighborhoods special. Join the City of Tempe on Dec. 2 from 5-7 p.m. to pick up a copy of the finalized Character Area Plan for your area. Hundreds of residents have been part of the process of identifying what they love about their area and what they would like it to become in the future. During the next few years, the City of Tempe will repeat this process until every section of the city has a plan. The party takes place at Ken McDonald Golf Course, 800 E Divot Drive. Mayor Mark Mitchell and members of the Tempe City Council will speak at 5:30 p.m. For more details, visit www.tempe.gov/characterareas or call 480 350-8096.

City Council takes action on adaptive reuse, food trucks, water conservation

Visit www.tempe.gov/tempetoday and check out the expanded November issue of Tempe Today for detailed information about three of the issues the City Council acted on in September and October. The Council set new or revised guidelines to: allow for greater

presence from food trucks in certain locations and timeframes; create a program to allow for the easier redevelopment of existing buildings into new uses; and meet an ambitious water conservation goal.

Kiwanis Recreation Center temporary closure

Kiwanis Recreation Center will be closed Monday, December 1 through Friday, December 12, 2014 for maintenance improvements, including the replacement of the main electrical grid. The tennis courts will be open daily, but operating under a modified schedule. Visit www.tempe.gov/tennis for hours of operation.



DECEMBER 2014

Bulk Trash Collection Schedule

	Collection Dates	Collection Type
Area E	December 1-5	MIXED WASTE/ BULK TRASH
Area F	December 8-12	
Area G	December 15-19	
Area H	December 22-26	

Items may be placed for collection no earlier than 10 days prior to Monday of your collection week and no later than 6 a.m. on Monday of your collection week.



www.tempe.gov/slashthetrash • 480-350-4311

How to sell yourself and your company

Everyone sells – but not everyone does it well. Business owners and professionals can develop key skills to more effectively market or “sell” themselves and their organizations. This session will look at using non-verbal communication effectively, creating value with your network and developing a personal sales plan. Join us for this 8-9 a.m. program on Thursday, Nov. 6, at Rio Salado College, 3320 S. Price Road. A \$10 cash admission covers a continental breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Admission is free for students and seniors with ID. Registration begins at 7 a.m.



Bulk trash and green waste reminders

Since changing its Mixed Bulk Trash and Green Organics collection program just over a year ago, Tempe listened to residents' feedback, and is making changes to include more mixed waste (bulk trash) collections while retaining a significant green-organics composting component.

Beginning January, Tempe will provide six mixed bulk waste collections per year (up from two during the last year), along with three collections for green organics (vegetation) that will be turned into nutrient-rich compost. Watch for details about the revised schedule in the coming months.

In addition to the regularly scheduled bulk and green waste collection, Tempe offers several other options, such as access to two convenient transfer stations, on-call collection service, appliance pickup and the ability to purchase extra bins. The city's Household Products Collection Center, 1320 E. University Drive, allows residents to drop off hazardous waste, including motor oil, paint, cleaning products, lawn and pool chemicals.

The city also holds two Zero Waste events each year, which offer multipurpose recycling. The next Zero Waste Day will be held Nov. 22 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visit www.tempe.gov/slashthetrash for more information.



Tempe loves food trucks!

Craving handmade waffles or a grilled cheese sandwich? How about tacos or fry bread?

Food trucks are serving up these goodies and much more as part of a national

and local trend that is only growing in popularity. In October, the Tempe City Council voted to make it easier for food trucks to do business in public places within the city.

The section of City Code being amended previously was designed to pertain only to ice cream trucks. These changes will take food trucks into account and provide guidelines for them to park on city property. The ordinance changes expand opportunities for food truck vendors to operate in Tempe.

Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell and Councilmember Corey Woods were involved in bringing the changes before the City Council.

“Food trucks create energy and get people out and about in their community,” Mitchell said. “Tempe is a fun place to be and we work to keep that reputation going whenever possible, while setting up reasonable guidelines that respect residents and neighborhoods.”

In applying to do business in Tempe, food truck owners will be required to sign a “good neighbor policy” committing to principles of public safety and respect for public and private property.

To read the changes, check out agenda items 6C10 and 6C11 at <http://1.usa.gov/1vBtjsW>.

Tempe Council approves ambitious water conservation goal

In September, the City Council unanimously approved a new water conservation goal that will potentially save the city more than 600 million gallons of water a year by 2020. Councilmembers adopted a new citywide target of 115 gallons per capita per day (GPCD).

Last year, Tempe served 7.9 billion gallons of water to residents. Under the new guidelines, that number could drop to 7.6 billion gallons, even as Tempe's population continues to increase.

“This is an important step for Tempe and its water sustainability future,” said Tempe Councilmember Kolby Granville. “Our goal is to decrease water demand while still providing excellent service to our growing Tempe communities. I believe Council's decision plays a significant role in securing the quality of life for current and future Tempe residents.”

The city's team of water experts is developing a strategy that will outline the best tactics to help reach the new GPCD goal. The recommended programs, which could include more home water audits and increases to water rebates, will be added to the budget process and approved by Council in the coming months. The team will also evaluate how these programs could impact future water rates.

GPCD is a common tool for measuring water use, and represents the average amount of water used by each resident in a day. For more information about water conservation, visit www.tempe.gov/waterconservation.



Tempe ranks highest in Arizona and 17th nationwide as best cities for biking

Tempe ranked highest among Arizona cities on Bicycling Magazine's 2014 Top 50 Bike-Friendly Cities list. At No. 17 nationally, Tempe scored points for promoting bicycling through local artwork that "captures the spirit of the community and creates a sense of ownership," along with a variety of other factors, including more than 175 miles of bike lanes and multi-use paths, that make Tempe a great place to ride.

Tempe resident Paul Emerson knows those bikeways well. He started biking to Arizona State University as a student more than 20 years ago and kept riding to work as an ASU employee since. Despite being hit by a car and suffering severe injuries in May 2000, Emerson still rides his bike to work nearly every day and rides recreationally with his wife and three sons.

"I like experiencing the community at the slower pace of a bicycle," Emerson said. "I feel more connected to the city on a bike than zipping through it in a car."

In its ranking, Bicycling Magazine recognized Tempe Bicycle Action Group (TBAG) as a community connection that makes cycling a "more prominent mode of transportation and fitness." TBAG organizes rides, supports Bike to Work Week, provides bicycle safety training courses and operates bike valets to encourage people to bike to local events.

"Tempe has a long history of being bike friendly with a supportive Council," said Councilmember Kolby Granville. "In the last few years we've really stepped up our game, working with Tempe Bicycle Action Group and others, and this ranking is a reflection of that new focus."

The magazine's biennial ranking finds that biking is skyrocketing nationwide, and Tempe is no exception, with the highest bike commuter rate in Arizona. According to the U. S. Census, approximately 4 percent of Tempe residents commute by bicycle, compared to a national average of less than 1 percent.

"I've been involved in the city's bike programs for more than 20 years – long before I began serving on the City Council," said Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage. "It's really rewarding to see Tempe evolve over the years in how we support biking in the community, expanding and improving our bikeways to help create equity between the bike and the automobile."

Arredondo-Savage served on Tempe's Bicycle Advisory Committee from 1995 to 2001, advocating for more bike lanes, helping organize the annual Tour de Tempe community bike ride and helping select public art for the city's bicycle/pedestrian bridges.

Tempe is building bikeways for all ages and skill levels, with the next wave of enhancements planned to include protected bike lanes, green bike lanes, bike boulevards and road diets, which amount to removing auto lanes to add bike lanes, creating more balanced streets.

To rank the top 50 bike-friendly cities, Bicycling Magazine evaluated communities using data provided by the Alliance for Biking and Walking and the League of American Bicyclists, as well as input from local advocates and city planners. The editors also looked at U.S. Census data, including overall percentage of bike commuters in each city and the rate at which those percentages are growing, as well as infrastructure, such as protected bike lanes and commuter support facilities, and community events that promote bicycling.



Adaptive Reuse program provides flexibility for older buildings

Businesses exploring new potential uses for existing buildings may want to check into the city's new Adaptive Reuse program.

Market shifts, technology and architectural requirements often render the original use for a building obsolete. Adaptive reuse brings new life to those buildings along with services that neighborhoods may need. The program offers a sustainable alternative to new construction and helps preserve buildings.

The Adaptive Reuse Program makes it easier for businesses to gain approvals for new concepts, such as the conversion of former banks into retail spaces or restaurants. The program offers exemptions from certain city code standards for the purpose of rehabilitation of older commercial buildings.

The program does not cost the city additional funds. It will increase revenues as new businesses open and contribute to the city's economy. Each project will receive the assistance of a staff member to act as a single point of contact to assist the customer in resolving both technical and process-related issues.

As an example, some establishments may benefit from a unisex bathroom rather than two individual bathrooms, or may be able to utilize a public parking lot or garage as opposed to all required parking be located strictly within the business' lot.

Buildings must be more than 20 years old, be located within 100 feet of an arterial street and meet other qualifications. For more details, visit www.tempe.gov/adaptivereuse.

Community Conversation with Councilmember Kolby Granville

Tempe City Councilmember Kolby Granville is hosting "Community Conversation" and invites community members to connect with him at any of three planned sessions in November.

Granville is excited to hear from residents about what's going well and what could be improved in Tempe. The open-house style forums will be held at various times and Tempe locations in order to accommodate residents' busy schedules:

"I enjoy hosting this event and meeting with our residents throughout the year," Councilmember Granville said. "The people in our community are the ones who know if there are any issues that need to be addressed, and I believe together we can build a better Tempe."

The forums are open to all Tempe community members and will be at the following locations:

When: Thursday, Nov. 20 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Where: Changing Hands Bookstore, 6428 S. McClintock Dr.

When: Saturday, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. – noon

Where: Kolby Granville's home, 2516 S. Jentilly Lane

When: Saturday, Nov. 22 from 2-4 p.m.

Where: Tempe Farmer's Market, 805 S. Farmer Ave.

For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/ccwithkolby.

For questions on the gatherings, call 480-350-8916.



Tempe tech atmosphere recognized

Tempe's tech community took two bows recently: Google proclaimed Tempe its 2014 eCity and GoDaddy opened its Global Technology Center in October.

GoDaddy opened its two-story, 150,000 square foot facility on Oct. 7. The building houses 1,300 employees, including engineers, developers and customer care representatives. GoDaddy added 300 new jobs with the opening of the facility.

That same day, Google named Tempe its 2014 eCity winner for Arizona. The eCity Awards recognize the strongest online business community in each state - the digital capitals of America.

Mayor Mark Mitchell cited the city's economic development efforts, low vacancy rates and tech-savvy population as reasons Tempe received the award. Google worked with an independent research firm IPSOS to analyze the online strength of local small businesses in cities in all 50 states. Tempe is among the ranks of America's leading cities in the digital economy. Visit www.tempe.gov/business for more information on how to open a business in Tempe.